

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SPANISH PRESS REPORTS ON PICASSO'S GUERNICA

1. AUGUST 10 SPANISH NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TELEVISION
GIVE HEAVY COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY TO POSSIBLE RETURN
TO SPAIN OF PICASSO PAINTING GUERNICA.

2. EL PAIS (LIBERAL LEFT) DEVOTES TWO FULL PAGES TO
HISTORY AND LEGAL STATUS OF PAINTING, CALLS IT SYMBOL
OF SPANISH LIBERTY, AND POINTS OUT THAT IT "WAS ALWAYS
PICASSO'S PROPERTY, AND BECAUSE IT WAS SO, HE COULD
MAKE OF IT, AS HE DID, A GENEROUS DONATION TO THE
SPANISH PEOPLE, AND PLACE IT AS A DEPOSIT IN THE NEW
YORK MUSEUM OF MODERN ART. THE BALD FACT OF THIS DEPOSIT,
PERSONALLY SIGNED BY PICASSO...DISSIPATES ANY CONJECTURES.
IT IS CLEAR, AS THESE THINGS GO, THAT THE AFFAIR REMAINS
AT THE MERCY OF HIS HEIRS AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE NEW
YORK MUSEUM."

3. ABC (CONSERVATIVE) NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT JOSE MARIA
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CARRASCAL WRITES THAT "WE MUST SEE THE WASHINGTON
CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION IN THIS LIGHT: IT IS A GESTURE
OF THE CONGRESS, AS FRIENDLY A ONE AS COULD BE WISHED,
BUT WITHOUT EXECUTIVE FORCE. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY
WANT TO GIVE A TOAST TO THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT, AND
THEY HAVE DONE THIS FOR THE HIGHEST REASONS. HOW FAR
CAN THE AMERICAN EXECUTIVE BRANCH TAKE THIS RESOLUTION?

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW, BUT PERMIT ME TO OFFER NOT A PROPHECY...BUT RATHER A SENSATION, THAT TELLS ME CARTER WOULD LIKE TO BRING GUERNICA AS A GIFT WITH HIM ON A VISIT TO SPAIN...BUT FIRST HE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE PARIS LAWYER." (REFERENCE IS TO POSSIBLE LEGAL OBSTRUCTIONS.)

4. ARRIBA (GOVERNMENT ORIENTED) EDITORIAL: "GUERNICA IS OURS, DEMONSTRABLY OURS, BELONGING TO ALL OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE...WHEN THIS UNIVERSAL MASTERWORK OF TWENTIETH CENTURY PAINTING IS ON SPANISH SOIL, IT WILL APPEAR TO MILLIONS OF OUR COMPATRIOTS TO PLACE A NEW BOLT ON THE SOLID CONSTITUTIONAL DOOR, THAT ENCLOSES IN THE PAST AND MAKES UNREPEATABLE THE TERRORS AND SHAME OF YESTERDAY."

5. YA (CATHOLIC CENTRIST) DEVOTES A FULL PAGE TO REPORTS ON THE LEGAL STATUS AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PAINTING.

6. LA VANGUARDIA (CENTER) OF BARCELONA EDITORIALIZES: "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A MORE OR LESS EXTENDED WRANGLE WILL BEGIN OVER THE WILL OF...PICASSO. BUT IT WILL BE USELESS. GUERNICA AND SPAIN ARE ONE AND INSEPARABLE. IT WAS DONE WITH OUR BLOOD, OUR SUFFERING, OUR PAIN AND WE WANT ITS RETURN WHEN WE HAVE FIRMLY DETERMINED TO NEVER AGAIN FIGHT AMONG OURSELVES IN FRATRICIDAL WAR." UNCLASSIFIED

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